

[54] **KEYBOARD SWITCH ASSEMBLY WITH IMPROVED MOVABLE CONTACT HAVING CANTILEVER SUPPORTED CENTRAL MEMBER WITH RADIALLY EXTENDING CONTACT FINGERS**

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[58] Field of Search **200/5 R, 5 A, 159 B, 200/166 BH, 1 R, 159 A, 166 J**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A mechanically operated keyboard with key stations having a multiplicity of electrical switch contacts for providing an encoded electrical data output signal corresponding to and uniquely identifying individual key stations includes an array of movable contacts each corresponding to an individual key station and which are formed in a sheet of conducting material mounted above a corresponding array of fixed contacts to form multiple contact electrical switches for each key station of the keyboard. Each movable contact has a central member suspended to the sheet of conducting material in cantilevered fashion and includes a plurality of peripherally spaced contact fingers joined to the central member such that the contact fingers adjacent the junction of the central member to the conducting sheet will contact associated fixed contacts of a key station only after the remaining contact fingers have come into contact with their associated fixed contacts. An electrical circuit coupled to the contact fingers provides a strobe output signal only when all of the electrical switch contacts associated with a given key station have been actuated as indicated by the closure between the contact finger adjacent the junction of the central member to the conducting sheet and its associated fixed contact.

16 Claims, 8 Drawing Figures

